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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 12, 2004.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT B. ADERHOLT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) for 5 minutes.

LEGISLATIVE ARM TWISTING

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday was a bad day for democracy in the House of Representatives. Adding to their laundry list of legislative arm twisting, House Republicans once again bent democracy to fit their needs by holding a vote open for 38 minutes until they were able to change the outcome of the vote. Thursday was not an isolated incidence of arrogant disregard for the political process by Republican leadership in this Congress. It was an example of the modern-day Republican win-at-all-cost style of governance.

This shameful record speaks for itself. Never before, when the Democrats were in control, when Newt Gingrich was Speaker with the Republicans in control, never before until the last year or so has the House of Representatives operated in such secrecy.

At 2:54 a.m. on a Friday in March last year, the House cut veterans benefits by 3 votes.

At 2:39 a.m. on a Friday in April last year, the House slashed education and health care by 5 votes.

At 1:56 a.m. on a Friday in May, the House passed the leave no millionaire behind tax cut bill by a handful of votes.

At 2:33 a.m. on a Friday in June, the House passed the Medicare privatization and prescription drug bill by one vote.

At 12:57 a.m. on a Friday in July last year, the House eviscerated Head Start by one vote.

And then after returning from summer recess at 12:12 a.m. on a Friday in October, the House voted \$87 billion for Iraq. Always in the middle of night, always after the press had passed their deadlines, and always after the American people had turned off the news and gone to bed.

What did the public see? At best, Americans read a small story with a brief explanation of the bill and the vote count in Saturday's papers, understanding that Saturday is the least-read paper of the week; no accident there. But what did the public miss? They did not see the House votes which normally take 17, 18, 19, 20 minutes dragging on for as long as an hour as Members of the Republican leadership trolled for enough votes to cobble together a majority.

They did not see GOP leaders stalking the floor for whoever was not in line. They did not see the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT); the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the majority leader; and the majority

whip, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) coerce enough Republican Members into switching their votes in the middle of the night to produce their desired results. In other words, the American people did not see the subversion of democracy.

In November, they did it again. The most sweeping change to Medicare in its 38-year history was forced through the House at 5:55 a.m. on a Saturday morning. The debate started at midnight, the rollcall began at 3. Most of us voted within the typical 20 minutes. Normally the Speaker would have gavelled the vote closed, but not this time because the Republican leadership Medicare privatization bill was losing. By 4 a.m., the bill had been defeated 216 to 218. Then the assault began. The gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Committee on Ways and Means chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and the chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce (Mr. TAUZIN) all searched the floor, walked around the Chamber looking for House Republicans that had the integrity and the guts to vote against their leadership and to do the right thing.

I watched them surround the gentleman from Cincinnati, Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) trying first a carrot and then a stick; but he, with integrity intact, remained defiant. They then aimed at a retiring Member, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) whose son is running to succeed him. They promised support if he changed his vote to "yes." They promised retaliation if he did not change his vote to "yes." He stood his ground.

Many of the two dozen Republicans who voted against the bill simply went home because they did not want to deal with the pressure. I found one Republican Member in the Democratic Cloak

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Room in order to avoid Republican arm twisting. By 4:30, the browbeating had moved into the Republican Cloak Room in the back of the Chamber, out of sight of C-SPAN cameras and the insomniac public. Republican leaders woke up President Bush, and a White House aide passed a cell phone from one recalcitrant Member to another in the Cloak Room. At 5:55 a.m., 2 hours and 55 minutes after the rollcall began, twice as long ever as any rollcall had taken in the history of the House of Representatives, two western Republicans, one from Arizona and one from Idaho, emerged from that Cloak Room, walked down the aisle, picked up one of these cards, a green card, scrawled their name and their district number on it, and sheepishly surrendered it to the Clerk of the House. The Speaker gavelled the vote closed 2 hours and 55 minutes after it began. Medicare privatization had passed.

To paraphrase Yogi Berra, I guess it is not over until the drug companies and the Republican leadership says it is over.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans can do a lot in the middle of the night under the cover of darkness. Last week, House Republican leadership demonstrated a new bravado, the same kind of thing they did last year, month after month, by holding this vote open in broad daylight.

What can the American people expect to see from the Republican leadership in the future?

CELEBRATING LIFE OF MICHAEL C. SAVAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have always been told that life is filled with uncertainty. Therefore, we should always endeavor to do as much as we can while we can because we never know when the time will come when we cannot do.

Such has been the life of Michael C. Savage who recently died in a boating accident. Mike was young, 51 years of age. He was openly gay, had a partner of 15 years, was a loving son to his mother, Ms. Maureen Savage, and brother to his siblings, Chuck and Cindy.

Mike was the chief executive officer of Access Community Health Network, probably the most successful group of community health centers in the country. Mike worked on AIDS and gay issues in Chicago, moved away to Boston to become executive director of the Fenway Community Health Center, and then returned to Chicago to run the Access Community Health Corporation.

When Mike took over Access in 1994, they had nine sites. At the time of his death, he had grown the network into 41 sites and increased its annual budget

from \$19 million a year to almost \$70 million, and they served over 160,000 patients a year. In addition to his full time professional job, Mike was an active member of Dignity Chicago, a community of lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual and straight Catholics. He was also active with United Power For Action, Stand Against Cancer, and was a board member of the National Association of Community Health Centers.

Mr. Speaker, I have been around the community health center movement for many years; as a matter of fact, since its inception, and I have never encountered a more talented, energetic, visionary and effective leader, planner, and manager. It is indeed unfortunate Mike passed on so soon. Fortunately, he did much good while he was here.

Therefore, I express condolences to his family, friends and colleagues, and trust that Access will continue as the best of its kind in the Nation. We simply pause to say thank you to Mike Savage.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TERRY) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Ever-faithful Lord God, to create a new order among Your people, the prophet Ezekiel established a new scheme of weights and measures for all aspects of daily life and business.

His prophetic action causes us to ask what criteria do we use to measure and judge ourselves, others, and the performance of institutions today. Only You, O Lord, hold the light to see honestly the highest aspirations and, at the same time, the deepest limitations of Your people.

Help America to live in the light of Your eternal wisdom. Guide the determinations of this Congress as they formulate laws based upon America's ideals and yet practical enough to address our limitations in facing the most important problems of today and tomorrow.

Free government leaders from all self-deception and the manipulation of others, that they may accomplish Your good purpose for this Nation and be measured themselves honestly by their constituents. In You alone is the bal-

ance of mercy and justice now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PETRI led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1303. An act to amend the E-Government Act of 2002 with respect to rulemaking authority of the Judicial Conference.

CONGRESS MUST ACT TO PASS REFORM TO CURRENT MEDICAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, \$230 billion. That is the cost last year of the medical justice system in this country. Of that figure, 20 percent went to compensate patients for actual pain and damages, 20 percent went to lawyers' fees, 20 percent went to insurance overhead, and 25 percent was paid out in noneconomic damages for things like pain and suffering.

Mr. Speaker, we can scarcely afford this continued type of expenditure in this country; and, indeed, this House